

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-10
ARA-10 NEA-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01
TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 AGR-01
OIC-02 JUSE-00 DOEE-00 SSO-00 OES-09 DLOS-09 /187 W
-----052255 021938Z /44

P 021708Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2806
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USMTN
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
STR PASS CODEL
COMMERCE PASS NMFS

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: U.S.-JAPAN FISH NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 114512

1. SUMMARY. U.S. AND JAPAN MTN DELS MET TO DISCUSS
BILATERAL OFFERS AND REQUESTS ON FISH. U.S. DEL STRESSED
IMPORTANCE OF FISH IN OVERALL U.S./JAPANESE TARIFF NEGOTIA-
TIONS AND URGED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SPIRIT DF THE BONN
PROGRESS ON INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS. JAPANESE RESPONDED WITH
OFFER ON SQUID BUT INDICATED THAT IMPROVEMENTS ON OTHER
U.S. PRIORITIES WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT. END SUMMARY.

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2. USMTN DEL (WHITE AND CASSIDY) ACCOMPANIED BY NORMAN
PEASE, FISHERIES ATTACHE, COPENHAGEN, MET WITH JAPANESE
DEL (ENDO ET AL) TO BRING LAGGING FISH NEGOTIATIONS UP TO
LEVEL OF OTHER U.S./JAPANESE TARIFF DISCUSSIONS. USMTN
DEL EMPHASIZED THAT FISH WAS AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS THAT COULD NOT BE LEFT OUT, DESPITE ATTENTION
PAID TO BASIC AGRICULTURAL OR INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS. DISCUS-

SION BEGAN BY FOCUSING ON LIST OF U.S. REQUESTS FROM JAPAN (BASICALLY THE SUMMARY PRIORITY LIST PREPARED BY DOC). U.S. DEL ASKED JAPANESE TO CLARIFY JAPANESE OFFER IN TERMS OF U.S. REQUESTS, POINTING OUT THAT OUR RECORDS SHOWED VERY LITTLE WAS ON THE TABLE FROM JAPAN.

3. PEASE OUTLINED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF HIGH PRIORITY REQUESTS ON HERRING, POLLOCK AND SQUID, NOTING THAT THE U.S. INDUSTRY CONSIDERED IT UNFAIR THAT JAPANESE FISHERMEN WERE TAKING 1.3 MILLION POUNDS OF FISH FROM U.S. WATERS BUT THAT THE JAPANESE MARKET WAS CLOSED TO FISH CAUGHT BY U.S. FISHERMEN. U.S. PROBLEMS RE LICENSING AND QUOTA RESTRICTIONS PER REFTTEL WERE ALSO STRESSED.

4. JAPANESE RESPONDED THAT FISH WAS ALSO A POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TOPIC IN JAPAN. ENDO POINTED OUT THAT JAPANESE FISHERMEN HAD BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF EVERY OCEAN BY RECENT IMPLEMENTATION OF 200-MILE FISHING ZONE RESTRICTIONS AND THAT THEY ALSO HAD A PROBLEM WITH KOREA AND RUSSIA WHO HAD LARGE SURPLUSES OF FISH WHICH THEY WERE SELLING IN THE JAPANESE MARKET. JAPANESE DEL STATED THAT LOWERING TARIFFS ON FISH WOULD PRIMARILY BENEFIT THOSE TWO COUNTRIES AND NOT THE U.S.

5. ON SPECIFIC U.S. REQUESTS, JAPAN DEL NOTED CURRENT JAPANESE OFFER ON HERRING ROE -- FROM 10 TO 8 PERCENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER HARD ROES (EXCLUDING SALMON, HERRING, COD AND POLLOCK) -- FROM 7.5 TO 5 PERCENT, AND SHRIMP IN AIRTIGHT CONTAINERS ON WHICH THEY OFFERED TO BIND CURRENTLY APPLIED RATE OF 12 PERCENT. JAPANESE DEL ALSO POINTED OUT THERE IS NO QUOTA RESTRICTION ON HERRING ROE. ON SQUID, JAPANESE DEL SAID THEY COULD NOW OFFER 5 PERCENT (FROM 10 PERCENT). OTHER TARIFF IMPROVEMENTS WERE REPEATEDLY STATED TO BE "VERY DIFFICULT."

6. BRIEF DISCUSSION OF JAPANESE FISH REQUESTS OF U.S. FOCUSED ON TUNA WHERE JAPANESE REITERATED THEIR INTEREST AND NOTED THAT SPAIN, THE MAJOR SUPPLIER, HAD REQUESTED THIS ITEM. PEASE RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS LESS THAN A MEAGER CHANCE OF CHANGING THIS TOTAL EXCEPTION BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY VIABLE AREA OF U.S. FISHING INDUSTRY AND THAT IT WAS CURRENTLY BESET BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO PORPOISES. AS WITH OTHER ASP ITEMS, JAPAN REQUESTED CONVERSION DATA ON CANNED CLAMS. (COMMENT:AT JULY 28 MEETING ON TARIFFS, JAPAN STATED THAT THEIR INFORMATION INDICATED U.S. CONVERSION RATE SHOULD BE CLOSER TO 15 PERCENT. U.S. DEL REQUESTED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE SUPPLIED IN WRITING. END COMMENT.)

7. MEETING ENDED WITH EACH DELEGATION REPEATING EARLIER
STATED POSITIONS. U.S. DEL THANKED JAPAN FOR OFFER ON
SQUID BUT NOTED THAT JAPANESE OFFER WAS STILL VERY MEAGER
AND THAT CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT WAS NEEDED. COMMENT:
SINCE U.S. REQUESTS ON FISH WERE MADE UNDER GROUP
AGRICULTURE PROCEDURES, AND BECAUSE JAPAN CONSIDERS FISH
TO BE AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT, U.S. SHOULD INCLUDE OUR
PRIORITY FISH REQUESTS IN DISCUSSIONS AT U.S.-JAPANESE
AGRICULTURAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON EARLY NEXT MONTH. END
COMMENT.

8. DRAFTED BY WHITE. MCDONALD

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